

## RELATING TO THE EXCHANGE OF LAND FOR PURPOSES OF THE COLONIAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

JULY 3, 1952.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State  
of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. BENTSEN, from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,  
submitted the following

### REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 7555]

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 7555) relating to the exchange of land for purposes of the Colonial National Historical Park, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

#### EXPLANATION OF THE BILL

H. R. 7555 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to exchange federally owned lands in the Colonial National Historical Park area, Virginia, for non-Federal lands of equal value. No appropriation of Federal funds is requested.

Enactment of this legislation is requested by the officials of York County, Va. The school board desires to construct a badly needed schoolhouse but the most desirable site is on land owned by the United States. The land has no historical significance and is surplus to the needs of the National Park Service. The non-Federal land that would be used for the school site if this bill is not enacted is near the old French fortifications in the historically valuable section of the Federal lands.

The Department of the Interior recommends that H. R. 7555 be enacted in order that it may have authorization to make any desirable exchanges of land when the need arises. The Department's report is set forth below in full.

## EXCHANGE OF LAND FOR PARK PURPOSES

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,  
Washington, D. C., June 17, 1952.

Hon. JOHN R. MURDOCK,  
*Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,  
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

MY DEAR MR. MURDOCK: Your committee has requested a report on H. R. 7555, a bill relating to the exchange of land for purposes of the Colonial National Historical Park, and for other purposes.

We recommend the enactment of this bill.

H. R. 7555 will establish authority for land exchanges relating to the Colonial National Historical Park area. Such exchanges will, of course, be entirely voluntary on the part of persons who may wish to exchange their property for land that now comprises a part of the park. This will promote a desirable consolidation of Federal holdings in the park and, to the extent that such exchanges can be agreed upon, will avoid the necessity of using appropriated funds for park-land acquisition. Consequently, it is in the interest of the Federal Government that such legislation be enacted. It is also in the interest of private individuals or others who may obtain in exchange for their property other land that will be more useful to them for their particular purposes.

One of the prospective exchanges will involve local school-board lands. We understand, however, that such exchange probably cannot be consummated unless this legislation is secured in the comparatively near future.

This report has been submitted to the Bureau of the Budget, and we have been advised by that Bureau that there is no objection to its submission to your committee.

Sincerely yours,

R. D. SEARLES,  
*Acting, Secretary of the Interior.*

Enactment of H. R. 7555 is unanimously recommended by the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.